

REMARKS

Claims 1-37 are pending in the present patent application. The Examiner has rejected claims 1-37 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). In response, the Applicant amends claims 1, 7, and 24, cancels claims 5 and 6, and respectfully requests reconsideration of claims 1-4 and 7-37 in view of at least the remarks set forth below.

I. Objections to Drawings

Applicant thanks the Examiner for pointing out the issues with the drawing margins and submits corrected versions of figures 1 and 3 herewith.

II. Rejection of Claims 1-37 Based on 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-37 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by King, Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,319,542). For at least the reasons stated below, the Applicant respectfully disagrees that the King reference (hereinafter King) anticipates the claimed invention.

1. *King lacks a first subset and second subset of data records that comprise one or more data records selected from a master data set.*

2. *King lacks a first bit vector index defining data records available in a master data set and a second bit vector index defining data records in a data subset.*

3. *King lacks a masking module for selectively providing a catalog view using a subset of data elements to a user, by performing a bitwise AND operation between the first and the second bit vector index representations.*

Each of these distinctions is discussed in further detail below.

1. *King lacks a first subset and second subset of data records that comprise one or more data records selected from a master data set.*

In King, the system builds a catalog using the catalog information stored on a database and user data stores locally on a user's computer. The user's data, in King, is used to generate a customized catalog. King does not describe a first subset and a second subset of data records that comprises one or more data records selected from a master data set. Rather King requires data be obtained from a user computer and a database. The first and second subset of the claimed invention are part of a master data set (e.g., a database) and there is no need to obtain further data from a client or user computer.

2. *King lacks a first bit vector index defining data records available in the master data set and a second bit vector index defining the data records in a data subset.*

King describes a system that uses a database for storing catalog information. However, King does not teach or suggest using a bit vector to represent data elements in the master set, or any other data. In contrast the claimed invention utilizes a bit vector representation, and indexes built thereupon, to search subsets of data elements within a master set of data elements (see below). King does not describe or suggest using a bit vector

representation to describe the data elements stored in the database. Therefore, King cannot anticipate the invention as claimed.

3. *King does not teach, suggest or anticipate a masking module for selectively providing a catalog view using a subset of data elements to a user, by performing a bitwise AND operation between the first and the second bit vector index representations.*

In King, the system retrieves data from a database and from a local client computer. In King, the local computer holds user data for purposes of customizing the generation of a catalog. In contrast to King, the embodiment of the invention claimed describes a search paradigm that utilizes a plurality of bit vector indexes to perform a binary operation, the result of which determines the subset of data elements that correlate to certain search criteria (i.e. determined by the bit pattern in the bit vector index associated with the subset of data elements). Because the search computation involves a bit representation of a master set of data elements, and a bit representation of a subset of data elements, King does not describe the invention as claimed. If King were to attempt to implement the present invention, the client computer would have to become part of the server computer of the database. King does not describe or suggest that the client computer be part of the database server. Moreover, King does not teach, suggest or describe a masking module for selectively providing a catalog view using a subset of data elements to a user, by performing a bitwise AND operation between the first and the second bit vector index representations.

Dependent Claims 2-4, 7-23 and 25-37

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-4, 7-23 and 25-37 being dependent upon respective allowable base claims are also allowable for at least the foregoing reasons stated above.

CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1-4 and 7-37 are patentably distinct from the prior art of record and in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that pending claims 1-4 and 7-37 be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

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